THE

DECLARATION, RESOLUTIONS,

AND

CONSTITUTION,

OF THE

SOCIETIES OF UNITED IRISHMEN.

DECLARATION AND RESOLUTIONS.

IN the preſent great Æra of Reform, when unjuſt Governments are falling in every quarter of Europe; when Religious Perſecution is compelled to abjure her Tyranny over Conſcience; when the Rights of Men are aſcertained in Theory, and that Theory ſubſtantiated by Practice; when Antiquity can no longer defend abſurd and oppreſſive Forms, againſt the common Senſe and common Intereſts of Mankind; when all governments are acknowledged to originate from the People, and to be ſo far only obligatory, as they protect their Rights and promote their Welfare:—We think it our Duty, as Iriſhmen, to come forward, and ſtate what we feel to be our heavy Grievance, and what we know to be its effectual Remedy.

WE HAVE NO NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

—We are ruled by Engliſhmen, and the Servants of Engliſhmen, whoſe Object is the Intereſt of another Country; whoſe Inſtrument is Corruption, and whoſe Strength is the Weakneſs of IRELAND; and theſe Men have the whole of the Power and Patronage of the Country, as Means to ſeduce and ſubdue the Honeſty of her Repreſentatives in the Legiſlature. Such an extrinſic Power, acting with uniform Force, in a Direction too frequently oppoſite to the true Line of our obvious Intereſts, can be reſiſted with Effect ſolely by *Unanimity*, *Deciſion*, and *Spirit* in the *People*, —Qualities which may be exerted moſt legally, conſtitutionally, and efficaciouſly, by that great Meaſure, eſſential to the Proſperity and Freedom of Ireland—AN EQUAL REPRESENTATION OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT.

We do not here mention as Grievances, the Rejection of a Place-bill, of a Penſion-bill, of a Reſponſibility-bill; the Sale of Peerages in one Houſe, the Corruption publicly avowed in the other, nor the notorious Infamy of Borough-Traffic in both; not that we are inſenſible of their Enormity, but that we conſider them as but Symptoms of that mortal Diſeaſe which corrodes the Vitals of our Conſtitution, and leaves to the People, in their own Government, but the Shadow of a Name.

Impreſſed with theſe Sentiments, we have agreed to form an Aſſociation, to be called THE SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN; and we do pledge ourſelves to our Country, and mutually to each other, that we will ſteadily Support, and endeavour by all due Means to carry into effect the following Reſolutions:—

FIRST, Reſolved, *That the weight of Engliſh Influence in the Government of this Country is ſo great, as to require a* cordial Union *among* ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND, *to maintain that balance which is eſſential to the preſervation of our Liberties and extenſion of our Commerce.*

SECOND, *That the ſole Conſtitutional Mode by which this Influence can be oppoſed, is by a complete and radical Reform of the Repreſentation of the People in Parliament.*

THIRD, *That no Reform is practicable, efficacious, or juſt, which ſhall not include* Iriſhmen *of every Religious Perſuaſion.*

Satisfied, as we are, that the inteſtine Diviſions among Iriſhmen, have too often given encouragement and impunity to profligate, audacious, and corrupt Adminiſtrations, in Meaſures, which, but for theſe Diviſions, they durſt not have attempted—We ſubmit our Reſolutions to the Nation, as the Baſis of our Political Faith.

We have gone to what we conceive to be the Root of the Evil—we have ſtated what we conceive to be the *Remedy*. With a Parliament thus Reformed, every thing is eaſy—without it nothing can be done:—And we do call on, and moſt earneſtly exhort our Countrymen in general, to follow our example, and to form ſimilar Societies in every quarter of the Kingdom, for the promotion of Conſtitutional Knowledge, the abolition of Bigotry in Religion and Politics, and the equal diſtribution of the Rights of Man, throughout all Sects and Denominations of Iriſhmen. The People, when thus collected, will feel their own Weight, and ſecure that Power which Theory has already admitted as their Portion, and to which, if they be not aroused by their preſent Provocations to vindicate it, they deſerve to forfeit their pretenſions FOR EVER!

BRITISH MUSEUM

THE Societies of UNITED IRISHMEN, ardently deſiring, that the *unawed*, *unbired*, and *honeſt* part of the Community, ſhould become one great Society of UNITED IRISHMEN, are of opinion, that a general Code of Regulations is abſolutely neceſſary to accompliſh that important end. For this purpoſe, they have, after mature Deliberation, adopted the following *Conſtitution* and *Teſt*, the adoption of which is neceſſary for ſuch Societies as wiſh to enter into communication and correſpondence with thoſe already eſtabliſhed.

It is earneſtly recommended to Societies, to eſtabliſh a BARONIAL COMMITTEE in a central part of each Barony, or ſuch other Diſtrict as may be thought proper, for the purpoſe of Correſponding with each other, by Deputation or otherwiſe. The Societies of each Barony to be numbered according to ſeniority, and the number of Members to be returned to the Secretary of the Baronial Committee quarterly.

New Societies ſhould be eſtabliſhed by a Deputation from an old one, who are to ſee a Secretary appointed and atteſted according to the Secretaries' Teſt.

The Blanks in the Conſtitutional Code are to be filled up agreeably to the Opinion and Convenience of each Society.

CONSTITUTION.

1ſt. THIS Society is conſtituted for the purpoſe of forwarding a brotherhood of Affection, a communion of Rights, and an union of Power among Iriſhmen of EVERY RELIGIOUS PERSUASION; and thereby to obtain a complete Reform in the Legiſlature, founded on the Principles of Civil, Political, and Religious Liberty.

2d. The Members of this Society ſhall either be ordinary or honorary, and ſhall not be limited to any deſcription of Men, but to extend to all Perſons who may be deemed eligible.

3d. Every Candinate for Admiſſion into this Society, ſhall be propoſed by one Member, and ſeconded by another, both of whom ſhall vouch for his Character and Principles, and whoſe Name ſhall be entered on the Books of the Society: the Candidate to be Balloted for on the Society's ſubſequent Meeting, and if one of the Beans be black, he ſhall ſtand rejected.

4th. As a Fund is neceſſary, the better to carry into Effect the Purpoſes of this Aſſociation, each Member on his Admiſſion, ſhall pay to the Society the ſum of and per Month while he ſhall continue a Member.

5th. The Officers of this Society ſhall be a Secretary and Treaſurer, who ſhall be appointed by Ballot every three Months, viz. on every firſt Meeting in November, February, May, and Auguſt.

6th. This Society, in manner aforeſaid, ſhall appoint two Members, who, with the Secretary, ſhall act for the Society in a Baronial Committee, which Members ſhall receive on each Night of their Attendance on ſaid Committee.

7th. This Society ſhall, in manner aforeſaid, appoint Members, who, with the Treaſurer, ſhall form a Committe of Finance, &c.

8th. At the requeſt of either Committees, or any Members ſigning a Requiſition, the Secretary, or if he ſhall be abſent, the Treaſurer, ſhall call an extra Meeting of the Society.

9th. This Society ſhall meet in ordinary every ſecond Evening at o'Clock, the Preſident to be choſen by a Majority of the Members preſent, of whom ſhall be a Quorum.

10th. Every Reſpect and Deference ſhall be paid to the Chairman. On his riſing from his ſeat and taking off his Hat, there ſhall be ſilence, and the Members ſeated. He ſhall be Judge of Order and Propriety; ſhall grant leave of Abſence at Pleaſure; ſhall not enter into Debate. If any Member behave improperly, he is empowered to direct an Apology, or if refractory, Fine him in any Sum not exceeding and on refuſal to do as directed, he ſhall therefore be expelled the Society for

11th. No Member ſhall ſpeak more than twice to one queſtion, without leave from the Chairman.

12th. Every Perſon Elected a Member of this Society whether ordinary or honorary, ſhall, previous to his Admiſſion, take the following *Teſt*, in a ſeparate Apartment, in the preſence of the Perſons who Propoſed and Seconded him, and one Member appointed by the Chairman; or in caſe of Abſence of one of the two Perſons, the Chairman ſhall appoint another Member to act for the Abſentee; after which the new Member ſhall be brought into the body of the Society, and there take the *Teſt* in the uſual form.

TEST:

"IN the awful preſence of God,

"I, *A. B.* Do voluntarily declare, that I will perſevere in endeavouring to form a Brotherhood of Affection among IRISHMEN of *every* Religious Perſuaſion, and that I will alſo perſevere in my Endeavours to obtain an Equal, Full, and Adequate Repreſentation of *all* the People of Ireland.

"I do further declare, that neither Hopes, Fears, Rewards, or Puniſhments, ſhall ever induce me, directly or indirectly, to Inform on or give Evidence againſt any Member or Members of this or ſimilar Societies, for any Act or Expreſſion of theirs, done or made Collectively or Individually, in or out of this Society, in purſuance of the ſpirit of this Obligation."

13th. A Member of any other acknowledged Society being introduced to this Society by a Member, ſhall, upon producing a Certificate, Signed by the Secretary, and Sealed with the Seal of the Society to which he may belong, and taking the foregoing Teſt, be admitted to attend the Sittings of this Society.

14th. No Member ſhall have a Certificate but by applying to the Committee, who ſhall not grant it unleſs the Member is leaving his place of reſidence, which Certificate ſhall be lodged with the Secretary on his return.

15th. When this Society ſhall amount to the number of thirty-ſix Members, it ſhall be equally divided by Lot;* that is, the Names of all the Members ſhall be put into a Hat or Box, the Secretary or Treaſurer ſhall draw out eighteen individually, which eighteen ſhall be conſidered the Senior Society, and the remaining eighteen the Junior, who ſhall apply to the Baronial Committee, through the Delegates of the Senior Society, for a Number, and that this diviſion ſhall take place only in the Months of October, January, April, and July. The Fund ſhall alſo be equally divided.

16th. That no Society ſhall be Recognized by any Committee, unleſs approving of, and taking the Teſt, and amounting in number to ſeven Members.

* *Societies in Country Places to divide as may beſt ſuit their Local ſituation.*

Order of Buſineſs at Meetings :

1ſt. New Members read Declaration and Teſt, during which, Subſcriptions to be Collected.

2d. New Members take the Teſt, all Members ſtanding and uncovered.

3d. Minutes of preceding Meeting read.

4th. Reports of Committees received.

5th. Communications called for.

6th. Candidates Balloted for.

7th. Candidates Propoſed.

8th. Motions made and determined.

9th. Place and Time of next Meeting appointed.

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES,

AS ADOPTED THE 10th OF MAY.

BARONIAL COMMITTEES.

1ſt. WHEN any Barony or other Diſtrict ſhall contain three or more Societies, three Perſons from each ſhall be elected by Ballot, conformable to the ſixth Article, to form a Baronial Committee (for three Months): their Names to be returned to the Secretary of the ſenior Society, who ſhall requeſt a Deputation from the neareſt Baronial Committee to conſtitute a Committee for the ſaid Barony or other Diſtrict.

2d. When any Barony or Diſtrict ſhall contain eight Societies, they may form another Committee, to be called the Second Committee of ſaid Barony or Diſtrict, provided each contains three or more Societies.

3d. Baronial Committees ſhall receive Delegates from Societies of a contiguous Barony, provided ſaid Barony do not contain three Societies.

4th. That the Baronial Committee ſhall correſpond with Societies or Individuals who have ſubſcribed the Declaration and taken the Teſt of the preſent aſſociated Societies.

5th. That all Queſtions ſhall be determined by a Majority of the Members preſent.

6th. That the Baronial Committee being regularly ſummoned, the one-third of its Members ſhall be deemed a Quorum, and capable of proceeding to Buſineſs.

7th. That any Buſineſs originating in any individual Society, ſhall, at the Inſtance of ſuch Society's Delegates, be by the Baronial Committee laid before the other Societies.

COUNTY COMMITTEES.

1ſt. WHEN any County ſhall contain three or more Baronial Committees, two Perſons ſhall be elected by Ballot from each Baronial Committee to form a County Committee (for three Months.)

2d. County Committees ſhall receive Delegates from Baronial Committees of adjacent Counties, if ſaid Counties do not Contain three Baronial Committees.

PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES.

1ſt. WHEN two or more Counties ſhall have County Committees, three Perſons ſhall be elected by Ballot from each to form a Provincial Committee (for three Months.)

2d. Delegates from County Committees in other Provinces will be received, if ſuch Provinces do not contain two County Committees.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

THAT when two Provincial Committees are formed, they ſhall elect five Perſons from each by Ballot to form a National Committee.

☞ Societies firſt Meetings in November, February, May, and Auguſt, to be on or before the 5th. Baronial Committees on or before the 8th. County Committees on or before the 15th; and Provincial Committees on or before the 25th of the above Months.

Baronial, County and Provincial Committees ſhall meet at leaſt once in every month, and report to their Conſtituents.

Names of Committee-Men ſhould not be known by any Perſon but by thoſe who elect them.

TEST

For Secretaries of Societies or Committees:

" IN the awful preſence of GOD,

" I, *A. B.* Do voluntarily declare, that as long as I ſhall hold the Office of Secretary to this I will, to the utmoſt of my abilities, faithfully diſcharge the duties thereof.

" That all Papers or Documents received by me, as Secretary, I will in ſafety keep; I will not give any of them, or any Copy or Copies of them to any Perſon or Perſons, Members or others, but by a Vote of this ; and that I will, at the expiration of my Secretaryſhip, deliver up to this all ſuch Papers as may be then in my poſſeſſion."

CERTIFICATE.

SOCIETY OF UNITED IRISHMEN

of ——————————.

" I HEREBY certify, that *A. B.* has been duly Elected, and having taken the Teſt provided in the Conſtitution, has been admitted a Member of this Society."

No. *Sec.*

BRITISH MUSEUM